

Please answer as succinctly as possible. Your responses will be shared on the Community Website and in the Community newspaper the O'odham Action News.

• **Why are you running for elected office?**

*As an emergency medicine physician, I saw the struggles of families who've suffered greatly from the consequences of bad public policy, specifically a lack of affordable, quality healthcare: Parents who hesitated to bring their child to the emergency department because they weren't sure whether they would be able to pay the hospital bill and afford groceries that week; folks who came in much too far along in their illness to avoid complications because they didn't have access to medical care; people whose chronic illnesses worsened because they weren't able to afford their medications. My patients deserved better. Our country deserves better. We can do so much better, and I have a plan to get us to quality, affordable healthcare for every single American in a fiscally responsible way. We can achieve this goal if we have the political will to get it done.*

*I was compelled to run because our healthcare crisis is dire, and I won't stand by as millions remain under- and uninsured while 20 million people are at perpetual risk of losing their coverage. I've dedicated my life to serving others and solving complex problems to improve people's lives – that's what I will do as a member of Congress in representing Arizona's 6th district. Healthcare, immigration, the climate crisis, economic and tax policy, gun violence, national security, and the vast inequities in our systems – I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work with anyone who's willing to come to the table to get the results Americans need and deserve.*

• **What qualifies you to serve in the Congress?**

*Our platform is focused on fact-based, data-driven solutions to complex problems which resonates with voters all across the political spectrum. Last cycle, we built a strong coalition by energizing democrats and motivating Independents and moderate Republicans. Although the voices we hear the most and the loudest are those of people who are at the extreme ends of the political spectrum, the vast majority of Americans share much common ground. Working from that common ground is how we make real progress on the issues facing American families. My entire professional life has been about solving complex problems and improving real people's lives; I am a proven problem solver who can work on teams with diverse backgrounds. I understand how to build a winning coalition of voters to win a district like ours, which is a moderate district looking for leaders who are willing to work together to make genuine progress for all families.*

• **In general, if elected, what will be your main objectives?**

*If elected, my top three priorities would be ensuring everyone has access to high-quality, affordable health care; supporting a robust jobs agenda – focused on infrastructure and a renewable energy economy - to keep building our middle class as well as move our country forward economically; and removing the outsized role of money in politics so we can address issues like the climate crisis and gun safety without corporate powers stifling the progress of the people.*

• **How do you plan to build your relationship with the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community members, specifically during this extraordinary time?**

*I will continue to build relationships throughout these extraordinary times by engaging with community members and leaders and meeting folks where they are. I am proud to continue to lift up the voices and the stories I hear on tribal issues throughout the campaign, not just during Native-specific events. Too many politicians take Native issues and votes for granted and only pay lip service during election season. I've shown that's not who I am, and that I will always take the issues facing Native communities and tribal governments seriously.*

• **Representing Congressional District 6 that includes the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community what is your view of tribal sovereignty and how should the Congress work with tribal communities to address their respective priorities?**

*First, I understand that tribes are independent and sovereign nations, a principle enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. As such, work between Congress and tribal communities must be a partnership. For centuries, the U.S. Government has signed, then violated, treaties with native partners, eroding trust. I deeply value the process of trust-building and mutual respect. I commit to ensuring that all work towards shared priorities come from a place of partnership. These partnerships can provide mutually beneficial results, and will serve as a reflection of how we can work together towards progress.*

• **What benefits do you believe the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community brings to the economy of Arizona and to Congressional District 6?**

*In our community, Native people are workers, consumers, and valued members of our society. To dismiss tribal communities as simply tourism-based or casino-based sources of revenue – as far too many politicians have – dismisses the multifaceted positive impact to our economy that the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community brings. Furthermore, the cultural influences of our tribal communities are invaluable, and they serve to educate and beautifully enrich our district and state.*

• **The Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community along with many tribes around the country have been advocating for more equitable tax policy. For example, dual taxation, where tax revenue that is generated on tribal lands and lost to state tax authorities, is a longstanding problem that results in vital tax revenue that is lost. For the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT) revenue that is generated on tribal lands is collected by the State of Arizona and does not return back to the Community.**

**As such, if elected, would you support federal tax policy that would bring parity to tribal governments?**

*Tribal revenue must be protected for our sovereign tribal nations. It should be up to tribal governments to decide how to collect and distribute revenue. I would support federal tax policy that reflects these cherished principles.*

• **Transportation funding is important to many tribal communities. Will you support greater funding to assist tribal governments to improve their transportation systems?**

*Yes, any comprehensive transportation plan must include support for our tribal communities. They are vital members of our larger communities We must recognize and address past omissions and gaps in the allocation of developmental resources. I also support full funding for the Tribal Transportation Program, the Bureau of Indian Affairs' road maintenance program, the*

*Tribal High Priority Projects Program, and the Tribal Transportation Technical Assistance Program.*

• **COVID19 has affected all Arizonans. What are your priorities for Arizonans from both a health and financial perspective?**

*Before COVID-19 hit our economy, we were in one of the longest periods of sustained growth in this nation's history. We are in an economic crisis because of the public health crisis. To get back to a strong economy, we must take a two-step approach. First, we address this viral pandemic by following the science and data when making policy decisions. We must create and expand to a robust testing and contact tracing system to fully assess the prevalence and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This also allows us to prevent the development of additional hotspots and super-spreader events. Second, we must ensure that those who have been impacted economically – those who've lost their jobs or been furloughed by no fault of their own – are financially protected with paycheck assistance. This includes actions such as ensuring the \$600 in federal support for unemployment is extended, freezing rent evictions, and placing a moratorium on mortgage payments, as well as investing more resources into the Payment Protection Program to support our small businesses. We must also provide financial assistance to state, local, and tribal governments to help them weather this pandemic. This two stepped approach deals with the underlying issue of the virus while allowing Americans to be financially secure as we get our economy back on its feet.*

• **What are the priorities for you as the COVID19 may impact people from a health and financial perspective?**

*The COVID-19 crisis showed us just how fragile our nation's healthcare delivery and economic systems are, and just how much those fracture lines disproportionately impact specific communities. We must invest in smart health infrastructure improvements to ensure that we not only address our current deadly COVID-19 virus, but also crises to come in the future. This includes ensuring we have proper stockpiles of medical equipment, health data systems that communicate information with one another, well-staffed hospitals and health centers that can provide good care to patients, resources to protect our seniors and most vulnerable populations, adequately funding the Indian Health Service, providing support to tribal health systems, and much more. Additionally, we have laws like the Defense Production Act that we can and should activate during a pandemic to produce the masks, testing materials, and supplies needed by medical professionals. The key part of this approach that must not be neglected is the urgent need to address the inequities and disparities facing tribal communities – Native children are three times more likely to be uninsured than their non-Native peers, and Native adults are two times more likely to be uninsured than non-Native adults. We need to protect Medicaid -- which makes 70 percent of IHS insurance payments -- from Washington Republicans' attacks and pass the Urban Indian Health Parity Act to provide adequate funding to providers that serve Native communities in urban areas. It is only then that we can ensure our actions benefit every member of our district and state.*